



City of Ridgecrest
100 W. California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
499-5105

A.C.T.I.O.N. Task Force
Kerr McGee Community Center Meeting Rooms
November 14, 2011
3:00 pm

Minutes

Committee Members: Mayor Pro Tem Ron Carter, City Councilman Chip Holloway, Chief of Police Ron Strand

Recording Secretary: Lori Blowers, Administrative Secretary

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3pm by Mayor Pro Tem Ron Carter.

INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made by everyone present at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: There was a motion from Ron Strand to approve the agenda, second by Ron Carter.
All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There was a motion to approve the minutes by Ron Strand, second by Ron Carter to
APPROVE THE MINUTES for September 12, 2011. All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Scott Anderson, Family Preservation Community Services** – Working with foster children in Ridgecrest, juvenile probation, CPS, social workers. Based on sex, age, etc. will meet with family for one hour a week on an in home meeting as well as parent/youth partner that work separately with children and their guardians. Assist with behavioral issues, probation, providing different resources (counseling, etc) in community. Will take kids to park, skate park, provide school clothes, backpacks, electric bills, etc. Referrals are made from probation, foster care, and social workers. Not sure if referrals can be made directly from schools. Ages are 0-18. Michelle Acosta is aware of this agency and thinks the school can't make direct referrals. The district has partnered with wrap around services in the past with Carrie Bond. **There will be a meeting on Dec. 1st with school administrators and CCS to see what support can be provided to our at risk youth. Officer Franco to attend? Michelle will email info.**

Mayor Pro Tem Ron Carter –

- Prisoner release. Chief Strand - The number of prisoners being released is far greater than originally expected by the state. There are over 1,000 since October 1st that have been released. We are already seeing criminals being confrontational with our officers due to the lack of jail time. It's going to be a challenge, which is why we are focusing more on the kids in an attempt to catch them before they continue down the wrong path.
- Mr. Carter and Mr. Holloway are helping with the Veteran's Advisory Council. Have met with all elected officials of representatives and all are on board. Trying to address issues of medical care and unemployment. They would like to do a stand down, which is a three day event that brings dentist, medical, etc. for "one-stop" shopping. Looking at the spring. They would like to have a Veteran's Center in Ridgecrest that will provide privacy. Kevin McCarthy is looking at a

pilot project for rural communities so the vets can get medical care, but it will take some time for that to go through.

Councilman Chip Holloway – Maybe the plan should be that Ridgecrest is the most patriotic city and start working with the veterans, youth programs, city events, etc. Create a core of people who would start marching in parades around California to get Ridgecrest on the map.

Chief Strand – Most graduated Teen Court students have not re-offended. Teens that don't participate and refuse to go through the program have significant criminal activity. We're looking at developing a program that will focus on the top 30-40 kids that don't participate in Teen Court and provide them with a significant number of resources. School district and Probation Chief is on board and will meet probably after the 1st of the year to discuss.

Kandi Smith, Family Resource Center - Veteran's in Bakersfield are very ambitious and could help with future plans of Ridgecrest. Exchange contact info with Mr. Carter.

UPDATES ON STRATEGY/ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. **School Reports** – Officer Franco – A few new families have come in to Ridgecrest with challenges. Officer Franco is working on helping them acclimate to our city. Contact with law enforcement has not been positive. When they know they are not “anonymous” due to our small community interaction it provides more accountability with them. Michelle Acosta – When we have newcomers and at risk in our community they try to approach it with a needs assessment to help identify what their needs are. Franco and Acosta believe our youth community has become more diverse and accepting of one another. The approach of, what can we do to help, has made a big difference.
2. **Neighborhood Watch** – Andy Pudgorski. No newcomers. Vicki St. has expanded about 3-4 blocks and is pretty vigilant. Estimates about 40% of city is part of a neighborhood watch.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – None.

ADJOURNMENT – The official meeting was adjourned by Mayor Pro Tem Ron Carter.